

# Good News About Influenza Vaccine Payment

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*Important Message Issued by:*

American Medical Association

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

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✓ Medicare has increased  
payment allowance for  
influenza vaccine

- \$9.95 effective Sept. 1, 2003  
(CPT 90658)

✓ Medicare payment rates have  
nearly doubled for service of  
administering influenza vaccine<sup>1</sup>

- 94% increase in payment  
compared to 2002

We're pleased to share this important influenza payment news and encourage you to make sure your practice is prepared to respond to this year's early demand. Ample vaccine supply this year led the CDC to suspend the tiered influenza vaccination schedule, allowing everyone to seek immunization, regardless of health status, beginning in October and throughout the 2003–2004 influenza season.

For more detailed information visit the CMS Immunizations Quick Reference Guide at:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/refimmu.asp>

<sup>1</sup>The 2003 new national average fee paid by Medicare for administering vaccines increased to \$7.72, compared to a national average of \$3.98 for the 2002 influenza immunization season. Actual amounts vary geographically.